

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 H-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-07 USIE-00

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN/CR:JGSULLIVAN:HLB

APPROVED BY ARA/CEN - DAVID LAZAR

H - S.D.ANDERSON

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O 2126Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, CS

SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION HEARINGS OF AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE
ANDERSON

1. SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HELD OPEN HEARINGS
ON CONFIRMATION OF AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE ANDERSON ON MAY 21.
HEARINGS WERE WELL-COVERED BY PRESS, AND FOLLOWING IS
PROVIDED IN ANTICIPATION OF LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE. BULK OF
QUESTIONING DEALT WITH FORMER EMPLOYMENT OF MR. ANDERSON
AND HIS QUALIFICATION FOR POSITION. ONLY TESTIMONY
SUMMARIZED HEREIN DEALT WITH COSTA RICA.

2. ASKED ABOUT AN APPARENT CHANGE IN COSTA RICAN ATTITUDE
TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT, MR. ANDERSON REPLIED THAT THERE WAS
CONSIDERABLE U.S. AND OTHER FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN COSTA
RICA, PARTICULARLY IN LAND AND BEACH PROPERTIES, AND THAT
IT WAS PROBABLE THAT THE NEW ODUBER ADMINISTRATION MIGHT
ADOPT SOME NEW REGULATIONS AFFECTING FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN
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THE NEXT YEAR OR SO. HE ALSO SAID THAT ODUBER HAD BEEN MISQUOTED IN THE WASHINGTON POST TO THE EFFECT THAT COSTA RICA WOULD REQUIRE MAJORITY COSTA RICAN OWNERSHIP IN BUSINESSES. MR. ANDERSON SAID WE DID NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE THAT COSTA RICA WOULD IMPOSE THIS TYPE OF REQUIREMENT. HE NOTED THAT ANY LAW PASSED WOULD APPLY TO ALL FOREIGN INVESTMENT, AND NOT BE ANTI-U.S.

3. ASKED HOW HE PERCEIVE HIS DUTIES WITH RESPECT TO

MR. VESCO, MR. ANDERSON REPLIED THAT HE CONSIDERED MR. VESCO A FUGITIVE FROM U.S. JUSTICE. HE SAID HE EXPECTED HIS ROLE AS AMBASSADOR WOULD BE SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE PREVIOUS AMBASSADOR IN OUR EARLIER EXTRADITION REQUEST: THE DECISION OF WHICH OFFENSE TO SEEK EXTRADITION ON WAS MADE BY N.Y. PROSECUTORS, IN CONSULTATION WITH DEPT. OF JUSTICE. THE REQUEST WAS TRANSMITTED THROUGH THE STATE DEPT'S LEGAL ADVISER TO THE AMBASSADOR WHO CONSULTED WITH LOCAL COUNSEL AND PRESENTED REQUEST TO COURTS. HE ADDED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING IN HIS MIND TO KEEP HIM FROM CARRYING OUT HIS RESPONSIBILITIES IN ANY FUTURE EXTRADITION REQUEST. HE ADDED THAT IF ANY PRESSURES WERE BROUGHT TO BEAR IN THAT REGARD, HE WOULD RESIGN, AND STATE WHY HE WAS RESIGNING. LATER ASKED ABOUT THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOCR TOWARD VESCO'S EXTRADITION, MR. ANDERSON REPLIED THAT EXTRADITION WAS A LEGAL PROCESS, AND THAT BOTH COUNTRIES WERE BOUND BY AN EXTRADITION TREATY. HE SAID THAT THE OFFICIAL COSTA RICAN ATTITUDE WAS THAT EXTRADITION WOULD BE GRANTED IF ITS INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY CONSENTED TO AN EXTRADITION REQUEST. HE ADDED THAT THE COURTS HAD DECIDED IN OUR EARLIER REQUEST THAT ATTEMPTED FRAUD WAS NOT COVERED IN OUR EXTRADITION TREATY. HE STRESSED INDEPENDENCE OF COSTA RICAN JUDICIARY.

TO ANOTHER QUESTION RE IMPLICATION OF EARLIER EVANS AND NOVAK ARTICLE, MR. ANDERSON SAID HE WOULD DO ALL IN HIS POWER TO RETURN MR. VESCO TO JUSTICE THROUGH THE LAWS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. ASKED CONCERNING DONALD NIXON'S RELATIONSHIP TO VESCO, MR. ANDERSON SAID THAT HE HAD NO PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING DONALD NIXON AS THE SUBJECT HAD NOT BEEN MENTIONED IN BRIEFINGS BY THE LEGAL ADVISER'S OFFICE OR THE S.E.C., BUT THAT HE SAW NO CONFLICT WITH HIS DUTIES IN THE CASE.

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4. ASKED WHY WE MAINTAIN A MILGROUP IN COSTA RICA, MR. ANDERSON REPLIED THAT HE HAD ASKED THE SAME QUESTION. HE ADDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE MILGROUP HAD RECENTLY BEEN REDUCED TO ONE OFFICER AND ONE ENLISTED MAN, AND THAT IT WAS BEING MAINTAINED AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOCR PRINCIPALLY FOR LIASON WITH THE PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES FOR

SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS AND OCCASIONAL PURCHASES BY
THE HOST COUNTRY. RUSH

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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